

THE WASHINGTON HERALD

BY
AMBROSE PRATT,
AUTHOR OF "VIGOROUS DAUNT, BILLIONAIRE."

SYNOPSIS PRECEDING CHAPTERS.

In the opening chapters of the Countess, there is related how Mr. Perigord, the mysterious head of a powerful secret society, orders three other members—Lord Cressingham, Count von Oeltjen, and Prince Carlos—to aid him in ransoming down the heads of the nobility organization in Europe. All three men are infatuated with a Miss Virella, Countess of Hohenstein, who is a beautiful but unscrupulous agent of the nobility. In Lord Cressingham's case, however, the infatuation is merely a passing fancy, as he is really in love with Princess Elliott, the daughter of Col. Vernon Elliott. After many exciting experiences the story develops to the point where Miss Elliott has been spirited away through the aid of a submarine, and the three men are left to find her. In this, they are aided by Perigord and placed on his yacht, together with the other principal figures in the intrigue. Miss Virella persuades three of the party, Col. Elliott, the captain of the ship, and Lord Cressingham, to participate in a scheme to kidnap the Countess. It is at this point, however, that the Countess places the ends in his hands.

CHAPTER X.

The Council of Kings.

Mr. Perigord glanced in at two or three restaurants, but apparently dissatisfied with the appearance of their occupants, finally requisitioned a private room at the Hotel de l'Europe at the end of the Toledo. He ordered a very plain repast, and while they partook of it he leisurely explained himself. "The captain's body," he said, "will be removed ashore during the evening. The health officer has already certified that he died of apoplexy; therefore we shall be troubled with no official inquiry. There will, however, be made privately a post-mortem examination of the contents of his stomach in order to determine the proper cause of death. The doctor suspects anemone or apoplexia, and I am inclined to agree with him."

"What of the colonel?" asked the young man anxiously.

Perigord shook his head. "Impossible to say, my lord. The doctor thinks he could not recover, he says the old man must have had the morphia habit, or he could not have survived so long. He will be taken ashore, however, and everything that medical skill can do will be done to help him. His is a very sad case, for even should he recover he will probably be either paralyzed or permanently insane."

"How horrible! And Madame?" inquired Cressingham. "Is she to escape scot-free?"

"I think not: her fate will, however, be determined this evening. By the way, my lord, I have to thank you for the manner in which you have recently acquitted yourself of the duties allotted you. You have hitherto obeyed me without question, trusting almost blindly to my word. It is time that I required your confidence to some extent."

"I shall endeavor to secure your admission to the council of my coadjutors, amongst whom are numbered some of the great ones of the earth. I think, moreover, if all goes well, that I can promise you a complete rehabilitation in the career which you had chosen for yourself, and which was so unfortunately interrupted. That, however, must depend upon your own energy and perseverance. If you can continue to show yourself worthy, you will find many powerful men willing to assist you and anxious to have your friends."

"You are a good sir," said Cressingham gratefully. "But I am not sure that what you suggest is beyond the bounds of possibility. I'm afraid I have damaged myself too completely. The British government would never give me another chance."

Perigord surveyed the young man with a strange smile, his powerful face animated with an expression of quiet kindness and unwavering warmth. "You shall see; we shall see," he said. "I am, my lord, time is full of many attributes; a little time and who knows what may happen. But tell me, is it true that Prince Carlos told you he had been in the city?"

"I thought his explanation was peculiar," Cressingham colored. "He insulted me most grossly, sir. I knocked him down. The man is of royal blood, and he is slightly crazed, I think. I warned you, did I not, to bear with him?"

"You did, sir, but I lost my temper; he wished to prevent us drawing Madame's teeth, and I professed to believe he had a mulgara and called me by an unbecoming name."

"I see; and yet she appears to loathe him; will not allow him to go near her. I believe, as Vorloeff informed me, is that right?"

"I do not know, that, sir, but I do know that he conversed with her immediately the bodies were discovered."

"Ah! and he wished Vorloeff to stop at Spartivento. Is he really a sailor, my lord, that you are a bad sailor, my lord?"

"I don't quite understand you, sir," Cressingham protested to taste Madame's sugar plums, is not that so?"

"He wished to stop at Spartivento, and violently defended Madame."

"All true, sir."

"You infer nothing from these facts?"

"I dare not, sir, why, what?"

"My lord," said Perigord gravely, "in an enterprise such as ours the slightest happenings require investigation, and that investigation should be conducted by the man who is at heart an enemy. But you have finished your dinner; your friend Oeltjen will be waiting for us on the Plaza Real. Let us go."

Cressingham got up, and mustering his courage while the other paid the bill, inquired: "Recent events will not delay us in proceeding to the rescue of Miss Elliott, sir, I hope?"

"I hope not," answered Perigord. "In a short while we shall definitely know."

Five minutes' walk took them to Maraschino's corner, where they found the Count von Oeltjen, who cordially shook hands with Cressingham. The three gentlemen then entered a fiacre and drove northward, Perigord giving the driver an address that completely astonished Cressingham. At 10 o'clock they drove up before the gateway of the Palace of King Humbert of Italy, and Perigord having given a pass-word to the sentries on guard, they were all permitted to pass into the palace grounds.

Perigord led the way to a side entrance, defended by a porch, within which stood a dozen soldiers, an officer, and about twenty black-clad gentlemen. To the officer he simply announced his name, and he instantly they were ushered with the greatest courteousness through a spacious hall into an ante-chamber, where Perigord bade his companions wait, he himself proceeding with the officer to an inner room.

An hour passed, which Cressingham devoted to informing Oeltjen of his adventures on the Sea Hawk. At the end of that time a young man, a young man came, who asked them to follow him. They proceeded from the ante-chamber to a wide corridor, thronged with officers magnificently dressed, who stood to attention like so many private soldiers.

willful prisoner, and such is her address that during the voyage from England hither, not two days since, she succeeded in poisoning my friend Col. Elliott, and the captain of my yacht—

"My God!" cried several, interrupting sharply.

"The captain is dead, Col. Elliott is still alive, but unconscious, and sinking fast. Madame tried also to poison Lord Cressingham, and your friend Prince Carlos, who looked very uncomfortable, but said nothing—'but an accident averted in those cases'—her designs. Your majesties may also know why I am here."

"My answer is that the time appeared ripe. Madame knows very well how to guard her secrets, and she is too dangerous and capable an instrument of evil to allow at large. Moreover, the Countess's walk hung with many fine oil paintings. A large table occupied the center of the room, and about this table were seated seven gentlemen, six of whom were attired in ordinary dinner suits, the seventh, however, in a velvet state robe of a cardinal and on his head a scarlet biretta. He occupied the head of the table; on his left hand sat King Humbert, whose stern and warlike features were set in an expression of cold and impassive. The other five gentlemen were unrecognizable behind heavy velvet masks."

Mr. Perigord stood at the foot of the table immediately opposite the cardinal. He appeared to have been just speaking, and to have paused at the interruption. The eight gentlemen stared for some space at Cressingham and Oeltjen without speaking.

Cressingham, who recognized King Humbert and thought that he could also recognize the King's vis-a-vis, made (as well as Oeltjen) a reverent obeisance. He was then moved to find himself in such august company, and although he had been in a measure prepared, he nevertheless, experienced a shock so great that for the first time in his life he was conscious of a cold shiver running down his spine. Having bowed, he unconsciously drew himself up like a soldier and stood at the salute, enduring the examination with tremors hitherto unknown to him. Oeltjen, who had doubtless known better what to expect, was more composed, and Perigord broke a silence whose intensity was growing painful. "As I said before, your majesty and your majesties," he began gravely, speaking in French, his eyes fixed on the king, "I have the honor to present to you a very important servant."

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BOWERMAN TELLS OF TRIP.

Visited Libraries in Frozen North and on Pacific Coast.

George F. Bowerman, librarian of the Washington Public Library, yesterday discussed at length the libraries visited by him during the past summer. In speaking of the itinerary of his route, Mr. Bowerman said:

"From Minneapolis I followed the Soo line and Canadian Pacific to Vancouver, after a trip from the metropolis of British Columbia to the capital of Victoria, we sailed to Skagway, Alaska. Thence we went by the narrow-gauge railway over the White Pass to White Horse, and from there took the steamerboat and went 500 miles down the Yukon to Dawson. On the homeward journey I visited Tacoma, Portland, Spokane, and Livingston, Mont."

"The library buildings at Vancouver and Victoria are only a year old, and cost \$200,000 each. Both are built of native granite, and while the former is both ugly and ill-arranged, the latter is by no means unimposing. In both cases the libraries are of older establishments than the buildings. I was given to understand that the libraries were to do with the designing of the buildings, and I think the libraries were handed over to the trustees completed, and about as awkwardly planned as possible."

"The Vancouver library has a good selection of books but it would be doubtful if it had been improved in this regard had not one of the board a most marked antiquarian taste, which resulted in his spending part of the funds for British local history. The Vancouver library seemed to gather men out of employment, notices of 'help wanted' were posted up, and one of the staff told me that she was often able to help them to situations."

"The Victoria library has a distinctly lower grade of books on its shelves, and there were only a few reference books to be had by direct access."

"The Carnegie building at Dawson cost \$50,000, but the building was the latest in Washington for half that sum. The chief reason for the high cost of building is the excessive rates of transportation. As the city of Dawson is built on a hill, a solid enough foundation in winter, but like most of the buildings in summer, no building is made of stone. The library is made of wood, and is protected from fire, like many of the successful libraries of the world, by a population of about 3,000, but now is estimated at less than 5,000."

"In about two years the library has collected nearly 5,000 volumes, many of them rare. The collection is particularly strong in French literature. The Dawson library has a good selection of Canadian, English, and American periodicals, all of which are much used. A New York Sun, in fact, is the only daily paper in the town. On file at a time of year when the mails are the quickest. Nearly all of the library users are men, so a smoking room is provided; a ladies' room is also set apart."

"As the population rapidly fluctuates, no book is loaned without its full cost being deposited. The price of every book is conspicuously marked on its bookplate. The new building at Seattle is an exact copy of this building, but more expensive, and so far as its convenience is concerned, seems to be a vast improvement. Spokane has a very attractive and apparently well-arranged new building, which cost \$25,000."

"In speaking of the present position of the Washington library, Mr. Bowerman said:

"There is an urgent need of funds in order that our readers may be able to have all the necessary opportunities and that the library may be further equipped with all the literature that is worth reading."

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DAILY COURT RECORD.

Supreme Court of the United States.

Present: Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Harlan, Mr. Justice White, Mr. Justice Peckham, Mr. Justice McKenna, Mr. Justice Holmes, and Mr. Justice Day.

Cambers v. Memphis, Tenn.; Frank Perille, et al. v. Memphis, Tenn.; and Perille, et al. v. Memphis, Tenn., all cases from the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia, were admitted to practice.

No. 24, Fred C. Fisher, et al., plaintiffs in error, v. Col. David J. Baker, et al., defendants in error, for judgment in error in the supplemental briefs.

No. 25, Warren B. Wilson, appellant, vs. Leslie M. Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury, leave granted to counsel for appellant to file briefs within five days.

No. 26, Hugh P. Strong, et al., plaintiffs in error, vs. Buffalo Land and Exploration Company, leave granted to counsel for plaintiffs in error to file an additional brief, and to file reply brief within five days after the filing of the additional brief of the defendant.

No. 27, N. L. Reardon, plaintiff in error, vs. The Oregon Land & Exploration Company, leave granted to counsel for plaintiff in error to file a supplemental brief, and to file reply brief within five days after the filing of the supplemental brief of the defendant.

No. 28, Northern Assurance Company, of London, plaintiff in error, vs. Charles J. Greene, et al., defendants in error, leave granted to counsel for plaintiff in error to file a supplemental brief, and to file reply brief within five days after the filing of the supplemental brief of the defendant.

No. 29, Warren B. Wilson, appellant, vs. Leslie M. Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury, leave granted to counsel for appellant to file briefs within five days.

No. 30, J. M. Gray, et al., plaintiffs in error, vs. The City of Chicago, leave granted to counsel for plaintiffs in error to file an additional brief, and to file reply brief within five days after the filing of the additional brief of the defendant.

No. 31, D. M. Brown, et al., plaintiffs in error, vs. The City of Chicago, leave granted to counsel for plaintiffs in error to file an additional brief, and to file reply brief within five days after the filing of the additional brief of the defendant.

No. 32, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

No. 33, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

No. 34, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

No. 35, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

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No. 49, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

No. 50, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

No. 51, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

No. 52, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

and Supply Company, Attorneys, Wolf & Rosenberg-Birner & Woodward.

No. 53, Bole v. Washington Railway and Electric Company, Attorneys, W. J. Lambert-J. J. Darling.

No. 54, Dudley vs. Atkinson, Attorneys, C. J. Kellogg-Campbell Carrington.

No. 55, Kahan vs. Washington Railway and Electric Company, Attorneys, H. E. Downing and R. B. Cowan-J. J. Darling.

Circuit Court No. 2.

JUSTICE ANDERSON.

Hunt vs. Fox et al.; death of defendant, Ella M. Fox, suggested, and suit stayed as to her.

Crawley vs. Randall; demurrer sustained as to first count, and leave to amend in ten days.

Plaintiff's attorney, L. J. Mather; defendant's attorney, C. L. Fraley.

Lea vs. Patterson; demurrer to plea sustained, with leave to plead over twenty days. Plaintiff's attorney, H. W. Wheatley; defendant's attorney, J. J. Hemphill.

Walker vs. Warner; order to issue letters rogatory. Plaintiff's attorneys, Tucker & Kenyon; defendant's attorneys, Gittings & Chamberlain.

Bozley vs. Baltimore and Potomac Railroad Company; motion for new trial. Plaintiff's attorney, R. F. Downing and C. A. Kenyon; defendant's attorneys, McKelvey & Planney.

Menden v. Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company; final order of judgment within ten days. Plaintiff's attorneys, S. V. Clayton and H. L. France; defendant's attorneys, Ralston & Saldinas.

Assignments for Monday, October 22, 1906:

No. 62, Short vs. Notes, Attorneys, W. P. Williamson, and Gittings & Chamberlain-Leon Tober.

No. 63, Warren B. Wilson, appellant, vs. Leslie M. Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury, argued by Mr. Warren B. Wilson pro se.

No. 122, Herrell vs. Kirkstie, Attorneys, Brandenberg & Brandenberg-Wolf & Cohen and E. A. Jones.

No. 123, Wyle vs. Riley, Attorneys, W. J. Lambert-Douglas & Douglas.

No. 148, Dym vs. Walker Furniture Company, Attorneys, R. B. Dicker & A. Bailey.

No. 25, Green vs. McIntire, Attorneys, John Hinton-Tucker & Kenyon.

No. 71, Gaines vs. Capital Traction Company, Attorneys, H. B. Monahan, Ross Perry & Son, and G. T. Dunlop.

Criminal Court No. 1.

JUSTICE STAFFORD.

United States vs. Emily Griffin, receiving stolen goods; defendant charged with receiving stolen goods; defendant charged with receiving stolen goods; defendant charged with receiving stolen goods.

United States vs. Kate Mazy and Paul Meagher, violating section 89 code, plea not guilty, with leave to withdraw or amend, or to plead guilty, within ten days. Attorneys, J. C. Gittings and R. E. Mattingly.

United States vs. Georgeanna Early, grand larceny; plea not guilty. Attorney Campbell Carrington.

United States vs. Edgar Washington, carnal knowledge; sentenced to reform school. Attorney J. W. Patterson.

United States vs. Joseph Cannon, held for recall of William H. Stewart; bail fixed at \$5,000; recognizance taken, with William Cannon as surety. Assignment for Monday, October 22, 1906.

United States vs. John R. McLean, United States vs. John R. McLean.

United States vs. John R. McLean, United States vs. John R. McLean.

United States vs. John R. McLean, United States vs. John R. McLean.

United States vs. John R. McLean, United States vs. John R. McLean.

Wilson and John R. Langer, to secure Washington Loan and Trust Company, \$5,000, 5 years, 5 per cent, semi-annually, part 2, block 2.

No. 5, Bole v. Washington Railway and Electric Company, Attorneys, W. J. Lambert-J. J. Darling.

No. 54, Dudley vs. Atkinson, Attorneys, C. J. Kellogg-Campbell Carrington.

No. 55, Kahan vs. Washington Railway and Electric Company, Attorneys, H. E. Downing and R. B. Cowan-J. J. Darling.

Circuit Court No. 2.

JUSTICE ANDERSON.